



January 2009

Dear Mt. Greylock State Reservation Campers,

The 2009 season will bring some exciting changes at Mt. Greylock State Reservation in Massachusetts. The two year reconstruction project on the Mt. Greylock parkway was completed in October 2008. The parkway provides vehicle access to the 3,491 foot summit of Mt. Greylock from the towns of North Adams and Lanesborough, and will reopen in mid-May, 2009. Another important change at Mt. Greylock is that the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) plans to continue to offer the unique car-free camping experience at the Mt. Greylock Campground that so many enjoyed during the last two years.

During parkway reconstruction, access to the campground was limited to a strenuous 2.5 mile uphill hike. Despite the challenge, many campers chose the secluded campground over other car-accessible campgrounds in the area. Recognizing the limited opportunities for car-free camping within DCR's thirty-one campground system, the agency has decided to continue to offer a car-free experience at the Mt. Greylock Campground. However, a new parking area off the Mt. Greylock parkway will offer campers a 1.5 mile, relatively-easy hike to the campground.

The campground change is in response to a growing number of customer requests for a camping experience that is different from typical car camping. We frequently hear from campers that they would like a camping experience that is not as challenging as backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, but more challenging than a hike from their car's trunk to the picnic table. We believe the Mt. Greylock Campground, which offers great access to spectacular views, and a rare alpine environment, is the perfect opportunity to offer such a unique experience.

Under the plan, campers have two options of accessing the campground. They may choose to park off the Mt. Greylock parkway and hike approximately 1.5 miles along the Campground Trail to the campground, or choose a more strenuous uphill hike of 2.5 miles from the Hopper Road Trail Head.

For more information regarding the Mt. Greylock Campground, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/mtGreylock/>. To make a reservation for the Mt. Greylock campground, visit www.reserveamerica.com or call 877-422-6762.

We welcome your input on the new campground experience. Questions or comments may be emailed to mass.parks@state.ma.us, please include "Mt. Greylock Campground" in the subject line.

We look forward to serving you at Mt. Greylock!

MA Department of Conservation and Recreation